

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG IS XF
SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS HIGH ON SUDAT-NUMAYRI DOWN ON ARAB CRITICS
NOVEMBER 23

REF: CAIRO 19374
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SUMMARY: EBULLIENT, CONFIDENT EGYPTIAN PRESS PLAYS UP NUMAYRI
VISIT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR SADAT. CASTS ISRAELI
GRASS ROOTS REACTION IN FAVORABLE TERMS. NOTES EGYPTIAN UN
AMBASSADOR WALKED OUT ON "FEROCIOUS SYRIAN ATTACK" BUT IGNORES
SPECIFIC ADVERSE ARAB COMMENTARY. EDITORIALS BLUNTLY REFUTE
ARAB CRITICISM OF SADAT. END SUMMARY.

1. THRUST OF HIGHLY UPBEAT, CONFIDENT PRESS COVERAGE NOVEMBER 23 CAST SADAT VISIT AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVE WHICH "PLACES ISRAEL BEFORE CHALLENGE OF PEACE... BREAKS THROUGH PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS... AND OPENS WAY TO PEACE." MEASURE OF CONFIDENCE IS EXTENSIVE PHOTO COVERAGE OF SADAT WITH PENSIVE ISRAELI LEADERSHIP.

2. NUMAYRI VISIT. PRESS HIGHLIGHTED EXCEPTIONALLY CORDIAL MEETING BETWEEN NUMAYRI AND SADAT, AND NUMAYRI'S "FULL SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S COURAGEOUS INITIATIVE". IN ARRIVAL STATEMENT, NUMAYRI SAID "I CALL ON ALL BROTHERS WHO CANNOT UNDERSTAND SIGNIFICANCE BEHIND THIS STEP TO UNDERSTAND IT FIRST AND THEN OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM." SADAT RESPONDED WITH EXHORTATION TO ARABS "TO FREE THEMSELVES OF OLD COMPLEXES AND BOLDLY SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS THEMSELVES." AS FOR EGYPT: "WE ARE MASTERS OF OUR OWN AFFAIRS." OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED SADAT INTENTION VISIT SUDAN IN NEAR FUTURE.

3. SYRIA, ETC. SYRIA POINTEDLY NOT SUBJECT OF SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION, ALTHOUGH PRESS NOTED WALKOUT OF EGYPTIAN UN AMBASSADOR ABDEL MEGUID ON "FEROCIOUS ATTACK ON EGYPT" BY SYRIAN PERM REP. OTHER ADVERSE ARAB REACTION NOT ATTRIBUTED, BUT EDITORIALS UNIFORMLY DEVOTED TO REFUTATION OF ARAB CRITICISM AND REDICULE OF ARAB SHORTSIGHTEDNESS. NUMEROUS OTHER COLUMNISTS FREE AT LAST TO VENT EMOTIONALLY UNIVERSAL EGYPTIAN FEELING THAT EGYPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HAS MADE MOST OF THE SACRIFICES DURING THIRTY YEARS OF CONFLICT AND OTHER ARABS HAVE NO RIGHT TO DICTATE ITS COURSE OF ACTION. MOST PUNGENT OF GENRE, WHICH DISTILLS EGYPTIAN REACTION, CAME FROM AKHBAR CHARIMAN MUSTAFA AMIN WHO CALLED ON ARAB CRITICS TO SWITCH THEIR ROLE FOR "HISTORIC EGYPTIAN ROLE". AMIN WROTE "FROM TODAY, YOU WILL BE FIGHTING ON THE FRONT WHILE WE WATCH FROM THE COFFEE HOUSES; YOU WILL DIE WHILE WE ABUSE AND SLANDER; YOU WILL STARVE AND GO BANKRUPT AND WE WILL GIVE COUNCIL AND DICTATE YOUR POLICIES; WE WILL BURN PRIVATE CARS, ATTACK ARAB EMBASSIES, HIGHJACK PLANES, AND THROW BOMBS IN ARAB CAPITALS; YOU WILL SHED YOUR OWN BLOOD WHILE WE SACRIFICE WORDS; YOU WILL USE GUNS WHILE WE RAISE SLOGANS; MAY GOD HELP YOU IF EVER YOU SIT IN OUR SEATS."

4. NO COMMENT ON PLO. CAIRO VOICE OF PALESTINE CONTINUES TO BE SHUT DOWN. EXPULSION OF PLO REPRESENTATIVE GAMAL SURANI, FATAH REP REBHI AWAD AND STUDENT LEADER AHMAD BUSAYSU CONFIRMED BY AUTHORITATIVE GOE SOURCE. FIRST TWO CONSIDERED TO HAVE FULL DIPLOMATIC STATUS. CANNOT CONFIRM BAGHDAD INA REPORT THAT SEVERAL PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS AND AUTHORS ALSO DEPORTED.

5. INTERNATIONAL REACTION. PRESS PRESENTS WORLD AS SEIZED BY,

AND HIGHLY SUPPORTIVE OF, SADAT. COVERS POSITIVE STATEMENTS BY EC FONMINS, SEPARATE COMMENTS BY FRENCH AND FRG FONMINS, CANADIAN PM TRUDEAU, PRESIDENTS OF GABON, IVORY COAST, ZAIRE, AND KING HASSAN OF MOROCCO. ALSO DETECTS FURTHER APPROVAL IN TUNISIAN AND LEBANESE PRESS.

6. U.S. SATISFACTION WITH SADAT INITIATIVE ALSO WELL COVERED BUT NOT MORE SO THAN OTHER REACTIONS. PRESS HAS STATEMENTS BY UNDER SECRETARY HABIB, FORMER UNDER SECRETARY SISCO, FORMER SECSTATE KISSINGER, AND DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER.

7. EFFORT DEMONSTRATE DOMESTIC SUPPORT FOR SADAT ENERGETIC. COPTIC MELLI COUNCIL SUPPORT AND "HUNDREDS OF MESSAGES" POURING INTO PRESIDENCY "CONDEMNING UGLY VOICES AND SLOGANS RAISED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOME IN ARAB WORLD" SPOTLIGHTED. GUMHURIYYA, IN ITS EDITORIAL, CLAIMED EGYPTIAN PEOPLE HAVE GIVEN SADAT COLLECTIVE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE.

8. DIPLOMATIC CAMPAIGN. FOREIGN MINISTRY CRANKING UP BLITZ OF CAIRO DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO BRIEF ON SADAT VISIT. ACTING FONMIN BUTROS GHALI WILL MEET WITH AFRICAN AMBASSADORS MORNING NOVEMBER 23 AND WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS (POINTEDLY SECOND) AFTER-NOON OF SAME DAY. ASIANS AND WEST EUROPEANS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 24 WHILE EAST BLOCK AND NORTH/SOUTH AMERICANS WILL BRING UP REAR NOVEMBER 26.

9. ISRAELI REACTION USED TO POINT TO SUCCESS OF VISIT. FRONT PAGES CARRY AP REPORT OF WIDE PUBLIC DEBATE IN ISRAEL ON WHETHER AND HOW ISRAEL SHOULD RESPOND TO SADAT. NOTES BEGIN HAS CALLED CABINET MEETING THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24 TO DISCUSS SADAT VISIT "AND STEPS WHICH ISRAEL MIGHT TAKE IN RESPONSE."

10. US SOURCES INDICATE FOREIGN AND EGYPTIAN JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED SADAT ARE UNANIMOUS IN BELIEVING THAT VISIT HAD PROFOUND AND FAVORABLE IMPACT ON ISRAELI PUBLIC. EGYPTIANS HOPE THIS WILL ALSO BE CASE AMONG AMERICAN ZIONISTS TO ENABLE PRESIDENT CARTER TO PLAY MORE ACTIVE ROLE.

11. COMMENT TODAY IS LAST DAY OF 'ID AND FEW EGYPTIANS AVAILABLE. OUR SOUNDINGS SUGGEST, HOWEVER, WIDESPREAD SUPPORT EVEN ENTHUSIASM, FOR SADAT'S PEACE OFFENSIVE WITH SKEPTICS RESERVING JUDGMENT, AT LEAST UNTIL SADAT'S NOV 26 SPEECH. EILTS

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